

Application No. 10/814,009
Amendment dated June 28, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 24-37 as follows:

24. A pull-behind mower for cutting ground vegetation, said mower configured to be pulled behind a vehicle, said mower comprising:

a frame presenting a fore end and an aft end;

a hitch coupled to the fore end and configured to releasably couple the frame to the vehicle in a manner that permits pivoting of the frame relative to the vehicle;

a pair of laterally spaced wheels coupled to the aft end and adapted to rollingly support the frame on the ground;

a mowing deck operable to cut vegetation when positioned proximate the ground;

a support arm comprising a frame-side section rotatably coupled to the frame and a deck-side section rigidly coupled to the deck, said frame-side and deck-side sections being hingedly intercoupled;

a motor for powering the deck; and

a drive train for transferring power from the motor to the deck,

said drive train including a first rotatable drive shaft, a second rotatable drive shaft, and a U-joint coupled between the first and second drive shafts.

25. A mower according to claim 24,
said support arm permitting pivoting of the deck relative to the frame on first and second distinct and intersecting pivot axes,
said U-joint being centered proximate the intersection of the first and second pivot axes.

26. A mower according to claim 24,
said frame-side section being rotatable relative to the frame on a first pivot axis,

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 said frame-side and deck-side sections being hingedly intercoupled on a second pivot axes,
 said first and second pivot axes being substantially perpendicular to one another.

27. A mower according to claim 26,
 said first and second pivot axes intersecting one another.

28. A mower according to claim 26,
 said first pivot axis being generally upright.

29. A mower according to claim 28; and
 a mechanism operable to inhibit pivoting of the deck on the second pivot axis.

30. A mower according to claim 29,
 said mechanism being operable to selectively inhibit downward pivoting of the deck on the
 second pivot axis.

31. A mower according to claim 30,
 said mechanism comprising a cable coupled to the frame and the deck.

32. A mower according to claim 24,
 said motor being rigidly coupled to the frame so as to power the deck independently of the
 vehicle.

33. A mower according to claim 32,
 said motor being a gas-powered motor.

34. A mower according to claim 1,

said motor being a gas-powered motor.

35. A mower according to claim 4,
a mechanism operable to inhibit pivoting of the deck on the second pivot axis.

36. A mower according to claim 35,
said mechanism being operable to selectively inhibit downward pivoting of the deck on the second pivot axis.

37. A mower according to claim 36,
said mechanism comprising a cable coupled to the frame and the deck.